

**Martin Luther King Commission Retreat
Rio Grande Board Room
Wednesday, March 4, 2015**

Attendees: Adrienne G. Andrews, Satty Chozo, Dr. Forrest Crawford, Beth Garstka, Dr. Rob Harter, Jenny Hor, Nkoyo Iyamba, Dr. Karen Johnson, Stanford Kekauoha, Jasen Lee, Claudia Nakano, Shawn Newell

Excused: Ed Napia, Joseph Nicholas, Robert Rendon

Welcome - *Adrienne Andrews, Interim Chair*

Adrienne Andrews welcomed all attendees to the MLK retreat.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Dr. Forrest Crawford moved to approve the minutes from Wednesday, February 4, 2015. Dr. Rob Harter seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mission Statement and Logo

MOTION: Beth Garstka moved to approve the Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission logo. Dr. Rob Harter seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Executive Order

Dr. Forrest Crawford opened the discussion by stating that the executive order should be used as a guideline for engaging in activities. The commission is expected to submit an annual report to Governor Gary Herbert and Dr. Crawford stated that the report should reflect and support the executive order.

He suggested using general categories for commission activities, which include:

- Outreach
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Training and Education
 - General Public
 - Schools
 - Private Entities
 - Faith-based Communities
- History and Document Preservation
- Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday

Dr. Rob Harter mentioned how the executive order is centered on the King holiday and education. Jasen Lee raised the question of whether the commission wanted to narrow its focus on public education with schools not being in session during the summer months. This leaves a period of time during the year where the commission is not involved with schools. In response, Dr. Harter said the commission may want to partner with other organizations to extend its impact.

Nkoyo Iyamba suggested working with elementary and junior high school students. She mentioned how a student in southern Utah protested her school's decision to be in session on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. Forrest Crawford provided a history of schools and government entities deciding between whether or not to be in session during the holiday. Adrienne Andrews followed up with the idea of creating guidelines or points of action for schools both in and out of session during the holiday to commemorate Dr. King.

Jasen Lee brought up the idea of broadening who the commission chooses to highlight as to include other human rights leaders in educational settings. Beth Garstka addressed other segments of the population who are not in the public education system and wanting to engage them through more grassroots efforts.

Strategic Plan

Adrienne Andrews suggested the creation of the “King Conversation Series,” which would be community events framed through a human rights perspective. Nkoyo Iyamba added the possibility of partnering with public libraries and having the events cater to a certain community and location. Beth Garstka liked the idea of partnering with libraries because they offer additional resources and are accessible to the public. With thirteen commission members, each member was asked to take on a project for each remaining month of the year.

Beth Garstka agreed to take the lead on the first King Conversation Series for the month of March. The English Skills Learning Center and the Glendale Library are discussing women’s rights and hosting a film screening on Malala Yousafzai on Friday, March 27. The Pakistani population will facilitate the conversations.

Jasen Lee asked about how commission members are expected to choose topics to focus on for the monthly series. Adrienne Andrews said that it is up to commission members to decide on topics of discussion in addition to event dates and locations. Beth Garstka also suggested filming the conversation series to increase accessibility.

Adrienne Andrews talked about the commission defining the terms equality, justice, freedom, peace, and human rights. Jasen Lee added that members should use these keywords to guide discussions on the conversation series. Dr. Karen Johnson suggested having each commission member independently defining the words and then coming together to discuss the definitions with the intentions of reaching a consensus.

Nkoyo Iyamba said that she hesitates to define the words because each person’s views are different. Shawn Newell talked about having open conversations with the understanding that not everyone will have the same definitions. Jasen Lee said that divergences are not necessarily bad and that each person’s definitions should not be viewed as either right or wrong. Adrienne Andrews said that defining the terms did not need to be decided during the meeting but could be seen as a long-term goal. The commission then decided to define the words found in the mission statement, which are: equity, diversity, and human rights.

Dr. Forrest Crawford asked commission members to provide him with the activities they were involved with during the months of January and February in which they participated as a MLK Commission member.

Claudia Nakano encouraged commission members to take over the Twitter and Facebook accounts and to maintain an active presence. Commission members also need to provide information for the website. Stanford Kekauoha is in charge of inputting and formatting content on the website. Beth Garstka suggested sharing the responsibility of providing content for the social media accounts as opposed to having one individual take on the accounts. She also suggested having one person take over the accounts for an assigned month and posting information on behalf of the other commission members.

Break

Commission members took a fifteen minute meeting break.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Forrest Crawford talked about each commission member hosting an event each month, which would culminate in the 25th anniversary celebration at the end of the year.

Monthly assignments for the King Conversation Series are as follows:

Month	Commission Members	Suggested Topics
March	Beth Garstka	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Women's Day• Women's rights and issues
April	Nkoyo Iyamba	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human rights leaders• MLK assassination commemoration• Holocaust remembrance
May	Shawn Newell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multicultural businesses• Asian Pacific American Heritage Month• People of the Pacific service project
June	Jasen Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Juneteenth• Pride Month
July	Dr. Rob Harter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kweku Mandela• Pioneer Day
August	Dr. Forrest Crawford Ed Napia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governor's Native American Summit• Back-to-school
September	Robert Rendon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labor Day• Employment• Hispanic Heritage Month
October	Adrienne Andrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hispanic Heritage Month• School-to-prison pipeline
November	Adrienne Andrews Dr. Forrest Crawford Ed Napia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native American Heritage Month• WSU Native American Symposium
December	All commission members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25th anniversary celebration• Human Rights Day

Claudia Nakano invited MLK Commission members to a Multicultural Commission meeting held in St. George on the campus of Dixie State University on Tuesday, March 17. The meeting is from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. A block of hotel rooms have been reserved.

Beth Garstka inquired about the annual report that needs to be submitted to the Governor's Office. Adrienne Andrews suggested the report include descriptive overviews, learning outcomes, participatory outcomes, collaborative partners, marketing plans, and future recommendations for each MLK-sponsored event. She also added that website links to articles written about the commission should be included in the report as well.

Dr. Forrest Crawford said that he wants to see a MLK meeting held at the Urban Indian Center possibly during the month of November. The commission talked about partnering with the center to participate in the indigenous Thanksgiving event.

Beth Garstka asked if the commission wanted to broach the topic of homelessness. Adrienne Andrews said that homelessness was part of Dr. King's mission. She said that northern Utah is opening the first youth homeless shelter in the state. She added that talking about homelessness during the summer months is powerful because it is normally addressed during the colder months. Jason Lee expressed concern over the large undertaking of addressing homelessness. Dr. Forrest Crawford said that a more practical way to approach homelessness is to join in the efforts of other individuals or groups. Jason Lee and Adrienne Andrews talked about inviting someone to come in and talk about homelessness.

In adding to what Dr. Forrest Crawford said regarding thematic issues, Adrienne Andrews suggested coming up with a list of themes to guide public conversations with homelessness being one of the themes. Some of the themes were addressed when brainstorming topics for the King Conversation Series.

Claudia Nakano suggested having a community discussion where commission members introduce themselves and talk about the mission of the commission. This would allow the public to provide their input. Dr. Rob Harter said that the Multicultural Commission participated in a meeting at the Christian Center of Park City where residents asked questions and commented on their thoughts. It is through this meeting that many residents learned about the existence of the Multicultural Commission. Dr. Forrest Crawford would like to see a joint meeting with the Multicultural Commission and the MLK Commission. Claudia Nakano would also like to see the commission meet outside of Salt Lake City.

Beth Garstka suggested reaching out to city councils to outline the commission's events. Adrienne Andrews said the commission could participate in the Utah League of Cities and Towns' annual conference by presenting on how the commission can support cities.

Shawn Newell talked about preparing a document to give to potential collaborative partners and using the logo for any MLK-related correspondence. The document will provide an introduction on the commission.

The following committees were created:

Committees	Commission Members	Tasks
25th Celebration	Adrienne Andrews Dr. Forrest Crawford Beth Garstka Dr. Rob Harter Nkoyo Iyamba Dr. Karen Johnson Joseph Nicholas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin the initial plans • Find speakers • Fundraise • Formally invite inaugural members, Governors Norm Bangerter and Gary Herbert, and collaborative partners
Societal Thematic Discussion	Adrienne Andrews Dr. Karen Johnson Jasen Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick 8 to 12 themes that involve Dr. King's work for the discussions • Coordinate panel discussions or presentations by inviting experts and community members to speak • Moderate discussions
King Conversation Series	Dr. Rob Harter Shawn Newell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up with commission members to check on the status of the event • Ask commission members if additional help is needed for their monthly event
Communications	Adrienne Andrews Nkoyo Iyamba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind commission members to post content on social media accounts and website for their assigned month • Gather information on each commission member to help establish a speaker's bureau

All commission members are expected to collect content that they feel should be historically preserved. Multicultural Affairs staff will help with archiving and digitizing the information as funding is available to take on such projects. Dr. Forrest Crawford has saved documents throughout the years with the hope of having them archived.

Break

Commission members participated in a working lunch. They also took group pictures.

25th Anniversary

The 25th anniversary celebration of the King Commission is expected to be held on December 10 to coincide with Human Rights Day.

Dr. Forrest Crawford would like current commission members to invite the inaugural members and Governor Norm Bangerter to the event. Adrienne Andrews also added that events held in

2016 should be mapped out for the celebratory year before December 2015. She would also like Governor Gary Herbert and collaborative groups to participate.

Dr. Karen Johnson asked if the commission wanted to bring a nationally-known keynote speaker. The commission previously talked about inviting Constance “Connie” Rice. Dr. Rob Harter said that if the commission wants to bring in a national speaker, it needs to be done soon.

Dr. Forrest Crawford said that he would like to see the inclusion of outside community members in committee meetings. Claudia Nakano suggested seeking representatives from the local chapters of La Raza, JACL, and OCA to participate in the committee meetings and the 25th anniversary celebration. Beth Garstka also suggested working with the Salt Lake City Office of Diversity and Human Rights.

Dr. Forrest Crawford said that he will chair the 25th Celebration Committee during the initial meetings.

Other Business

Dr. Forrest Crawford provided an update on the status of King Commissions in other states. In contacting the commissions, Dr. Crawford’s understanding is that many of them have now turned into human rights or civil rights commissions and do not bear the King name. He contacted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta and spoke to a representative who said that, in her view, King Commissions no longer have an official reporting avenue like they did in the past. Commissions are also now more city-based as oppose to being state-based. The commission in Montana is preparing a traveling exhibition on human rights and Dr. Crawford has put his name down to try and bring the exhibition to Utah. Adrienne Andrews said the dissipation of state-based women’s commission went through a similar process.

Adjourn

MOTION: Shawn Newell moved to adjourn the meeting. Jasen Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Action Items

- Adrienne Andrews will provide a written document on the goals and strategic plans of the commission.
- The next commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the Rio Grande Board Room.